25464—Continued.

"This is produced much in the village Makuwa, in the province of Mino, whence the name is derived. The male and female flowers are grown separately on the same vine. The fruits ripen in midsummer. They are oval shaped, about 5 inches long, and of a yellow color, with longitudinal stripes. They are eaten 1 or 2 days after having been collected, and are very sweet and delicious. There are several varieties of different colors and forms." (*Yokohama Nursery Company.*)

25465. MELILOTUS INDICA (L.) All. **Melilot.**

From King Island. Presented by Mr. Henry S. Baker, American consul, Hobart, Tasmania. Received April 20, 1909.

This yellow-flowered melilot, which has made for itself such an enviable reputation in the improvement of the soil of King Island, was introduced there supposedly from the mattresses left on the shore by sailors or washed up on the beach from wrecks of vessels along the coast.

Mr. Henry D. Baker, American consul, Hobart, Tasmania, has furnished the following information about its usefulness on King Island:

Melilot has in the last few years transformed the island, which seemed absolutely barren or given up to worthless vegetation, including chiefly bracken fern and ti-tree scrub, Tussock grasses and rushes, into what is now the most profitable grazing and fattening area in Australasia. It has grown even on raw white sand near the seashore, and in the course of 5 or 6 years has transformed the soil into rich, dark-brown, almost black loam, and made it capable of growing good crops of oats, lucern, etc. Land which half a dozen years ago was worth only a little over one dollar an acre now has an assessed valuation, where melilot is thriving, of about 35 dollars an acre.

Not until there had been severe fires over the island did the growth of melilot become luxuriant or have its usefulness recognized. The seed, encased in a hard shell, appears to germinate more quickly when this shell has been cracked open by fire. Farmers, in securing a stand of melilot on new ground, sow the seed in the scrub and bracken ferns late in the fall or winter and then burn off the brush. This burning of the brush adds potash to the soil and covers the seed, and also improves the germination, as stated previously. If a rain follows the fire, the seed usually germinates quickly and an excellent growth is secured.

This melilot is strictly an annual and dies off each year, the practice being to burn the old stems in January and February. This burning clears the soil of rubbish, and the stand of melilot becomes more perfect each season.

Melilot, in the latter part of November, was on the average about 3 feet high. Cut for hay about the middle of December, it makes splendid feed and all stock like it in this form. The estimated average yield of melilot in dry hay is 2½ tons per acre. Melilot-fed horses are of great size and strength, and have great endurance.

Mr. Baker suggests that melilot might possibly be introduced to advantage on the sandy wastes along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States, where the climatic conditions are not unlike those of King Island, which is intercepted by the fortieth degree of south latitude and normally has a good rainfall.

It would be a mistake to consider melilot better than alfalfa or other useful home fodders, its advantage being in its ability to redeem poor land. On very fertile soil in New South Wales and Victoria it has proved a rather baneful weed.

25466. RUBUS sp. **Raspberry.**

From Bataan Mountains, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. William S. Lyon, Gardens of Nagtajan, Manila, Philippine Islands. Received May 7, 1909.